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Security Council

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Letter dated 8 November 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith two reports of the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on the status of implementation of the plan for the destruction of Libya's remaining category 2 chemical weapons outside the territory of Libya (see annex I and annex II).

One of the reports, dated 26 September 2016, covers the period from 19 August to 19 September 2016; the other report, dated 26 October 2016, covers the period from 20 September to 20 October 2016.

These two reports were prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of Decision EC-M-52/DEC.1 of the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons of 20 July 2016, and Security Council resolution 2298 (2016), of 22 July 2016, for transmission to the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annexes to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex I

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith my report, entitled "Status of implementation of the plan for the destruction of Libya's remaining category 2 chemical weapons outside the territory of Libya", prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of decision EC-M-52/DEC.1 of the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), of 20 July 2016, and Security Council resolution 2298 (2016), of 22 July 2016, for transmission to the Security Council. The report covers the period from 19 August 2016 to 19 September 2016 and also covers the reporting requirements of Executive Council decisions EC-M-52/DEC.2, of 27 July 2016, and EC-M-53/DEC.1, of 26 August 2016.

(*Signed*) Ahmet **Üzümcü**

Enclosure

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

Report by the Director-General

Status of implementation of the plan for the destruction of Libya's remaining Category 2 chemical weapons outside the territory of Libya

1. At its Fifty-Second Meeting, the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council") adopted a decision on the "Destruction of Libya's Remaining Chemical Weapons" (EC-M-52/DEC.1, dated 20 July 2016) and requested the Director-General to assist Libya in developing a modified plan of destruction of Libya's Category 2 chemical weapons. On 22 July 2016, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 2298 (2016), welcoming and endorsing the decision by the Council and requesting the Director General, through the Secretary General, to report to the Security Council on a regular basis until the destruction is complete and verified.

2. At the conclusion of its Fifty-Second Meeting, the Council adopted a decision entitled "Detailed Requirements for the Destruction of Libya's Remaining Category 2 Chemical Weapons" (EC-M-52/DEC.2, dated 27 July 2016). In operative paragraph 17 of that decision, the Council requested the Director-General to report to the Council on a monthly basis on the implementation of the decision.

3. At its Fifty-Third Meeting, the Council adopted a decision on the "Plan for the Destruction of Libya's Remaining Category 2 Chemical Weapons Outside the Territory of Libya" (EC-M-53/DEC.1, dated 26 August 2016). In operative paragraph 6 of that decision, the Council requested the Director-General, in close consultation with the relevant States Parties, to report to the Council, not later than 26 September 2016, on the implementation of the plan, including any problems relating to its implementation. This first monthly report covers the period from 19 August to 19 September 2016.

Activities Undertaken for the Removal of the Libyan Chemical Weapons

4. As noted in the first preambular paragraph of EC-M-52/DEC.2, Libya informed the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") of the movement of its remaining Category 2 chemical weapons to a temporary holding area in the north of the country.

5. Based on the federal requirements of Germany regarding the import of these materials into the country, a request was made for samples of the materials to be transferred to an OPCW designated laboratory. Owing to the inability to land aircraft in Tripoli, the samples were properly packaged and transferred to an Italian vessel in international waters by a vessel of the Libyan Coast Guard. A Secretariat representative was aboard the Italian vessel to receive the samples, which were then were transferred to Malta, where they were transported by air to a designated laboratory in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, accompanied by a Secretariat representative.

6. The Secretariat circulated a Note (S/1415/2016, dated 31 August 2016) informing States Parties that removal operations had commenced on 27 August 2016. The Danish vessel Ark Futura arrived at the port of Misrata, Libya on 27 August 2016, and departed the same day transporting 23 tanks (containing nearly 500 metric tonnes) of Libya's remaining Category 2 chemicals.

7. The Ark Futura arrived at the port of Bremen, Germany on 5 September 2016. Offloading operations began on 6 September 2016 in the presence of Secretariat Inspectorate personnel and representatives of the Libyan National Authority. Transport of the containers to the Gesellschaft zur Entsorgung von chemischen Kampfstoffen und Rüstungsaltlasten mbH (GEKA mbH), the designated destruction facility at Munster, Germany, took two and a half days due to the weight of some of the containers. All containers had arrived by 9 September 2016.

Activities Undertaken for the Destruction of the Libyan Chemical Weapons

8. As at 19 September 2016, no destruction operations had occurred. The Secretariat was informed by representatives of GEKA mbH that minor maintenance was required prior to the beginning of destruction. Destruction of the tributylamine will take place in the afterburner of the plasma arc system, and operations were anticipated to begin during the week of 26 September 2016. Incineration of the 2-chloroethanol in Incineration Plant 1 ("Munster-1") will begin shortly after the start of operations to destroy the tributylamine.

9. During the arrival of the chemicals at GEKA mbH, Secretariat personnel were given a tour of the facility to witness that closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras had been installed for the verification of destruction operations when the Secretariat is not present. All CCTV cameras are connected to a 30-day recording device, with an additional 30-day capacity. Such equipment was installed at the request of the Secretariat, in close consultation with GEKA mbH, and will allow the Secretariat to review all destruction operations during subsequent inspections. The Secretariat will verify destruction operations at GEKA mbH every other month and review the video recording during its inspections.

Activities carried out by the Secretariat with respect to Libya

10. The Secretariat was informed that during decanting operations at the Ruwagha storage facility, one container experienced an exothermic reaction, causing the material inside to polymerise. Videotapes provided by Libya indicated that the consistency of the remaining material was such that it could no longer be pumped from the container. The Secretariat requested that Libya take a sample of the material for analysis. That analysis is currently under way at the OPCW Laboratory. Owing to the nature of the material, analysis has not yet been completed; however, the Secretariat is in a position to affirm that the material no longer presents a proliferation threat. The Secretariat has been approached with offers to the trust fund for the decontamination of the decanted tanks and the clean-up of the containers remaining in Ruwagha.

11. Samples obtained from the Category 2 chemicals have been analysed and have proven consistent with the declaration provided by Libya, with the exception of one sample, which indicated the presence of $POCl_3$, a Schedule 3 chemical. The Secretariat is working closely with Libya to ascertain the facts surrounding this

additional chemical. Libya has indicated that all chemicals that were present at Ruwagha were the remnants of the previous chemical weapons programme, and had not been analysed. Once the facts have been ascertained, Libya will provide an update to its declaration.

Overall Costs and Status of the Trust Fund

12. On 1 August 2016, the Secretariat issued a Note calling for voluntary contributions for support to Libya (S/1400/2016, dated 1 August 2016). As described in the Note, the Secretariat has established a trust fund to provide funding to facilitate the technical activities of the OPCW in support of the verification of the destruction of the Libyan chemical weapons. The OPCW trust fund had a balance of EUR 869,000 as at the cut off date of this report, having received contributions from Canada, Finland, and the United States of America. The European Union is considering an offer to assist with the clean-up activities at Ruwagha. The Director-General would like to express his appreciation to those States Parties that have already made or have committed to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund.

Annex II

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith my report, entitled "Status of implementation of the plan for the destruction of Libya's remaining category 2 chemical weapons outside the territory of Libya", prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of OPCW Executive Council decision EC-M-52/DEC.1, of 20 July 2016, and Security Council resolution 2298 (2016), of 22 July 2016, for transmission to the Security Council. The report covers the period from 20 September 2016 to 20 October 2016 and also covers the reporting requirements of Executive Council decisions EC-M-52/DEC.2, of 27 July 2016, and EC-M-53/DEC.1, of 26 August 2016.

(*Signed*) Ahmet **Üzümcü**

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1. At its Fifty-Second Meeting, the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council") adopted a decision on the "Destruction of Libya's Remaining Chemical Weapons" (EC-M-52/DEC.1, dated 20 July 2016) and requested the Director-General to assist Libya in developing a modified plan of destruction of Libya's Category 2 chemical weapons. On 22 July 2016, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 2298 (2016), welcoming and endorsing the decision by the Council and requesting the Director General, through the Secretary General, to report to the Security Council on a regular basis until the destruction is complete and verified.

2. At the conclusion of its Fifty-Second Meeting, the Council adopted a decision entitled "Detailed Requirements for the Destruction of Libya's Remaining Category 2 Chemical Weapons" (EC-M-52/DEC.2, dated 27 July 2016). In operative paragraph 17 of that decision, the Council requested the Director-General to report to the Council on a monthly basis on the implementation of the decision. This second monthly report covers the period from 20 September to 20 October 2016.

Progress in the elimination of Libyan chemical weapons by the State Party hosting destruction activities.

3. As reported previously, representatives of the Gesellschaft zur Entsorgung von chemischen Kampfstoffen und Rüstungsaltlasten mbH (GEKA mbH), the designated destruction facility at Munster, Germany, informed the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") that minor maintenance was required prior to the beginning of destruction operations. The maintenance has been completed and, as at 17 October 2016, GEKA mbH had destroyed 19.74 metric tonnes of tributylamine. This destruction was accomplished using the afterburner of the plasma arc system, and no problems were encountered.

4. Preparations are under way to start the destruction of the 2-chloroethanol in Incineration Plant 1 ("Munster-1"). GEKA mbH will inform the Secretariat when this is scheduled to begin.

5. GEKA mbH continues to finalise the construction of the neutralisation process system for the phosphorous trichloride and the thionyl chloride. The destruction of these two chemicals will not begin until 2017.

6. A team of Secretariat personnel will travel to Germany to conduct an inspection at GEKA mbH from 21 to 25 November 2016. Two observers from the Libyan National Authority will accompany the team. Inspection team personnel will review videotapes of the destruction progress made to date and confirm that all

monitoring equipment is in place and functioning. As previously reported, video recorders have been set up at GEKA mbH to record all destruction activities that take place in between inspections from the Secretariat.

Activities carried out by the Secretariat with respect to Libya

7. As previously reported, the Secretariat was informed that during decanting operations at the Ruwagha storage facility one container experienced an exothermic reaction, causing the material inside to polymerise. The OPCW Laboratory has completed an analysis of the sample received from Libya, which was taken from the tank in question. In addition to determining the composition of the sample, the Laboratory was requested to ascertain whether the contents of the tank could be regarded as destroyed, or if residual declared chemicals were still present in amounts that would require the waste to be further chemically treated, as well as if the tank contents presented a proliferation risk.

8. Using gas chromatography-mass spectrometry analysis, both PCl3 and POCl3 were detected in the sample, in the region of 5% by weight. As the remaining concentrations of PCl3 and POCl3 were found to be more than 0.1% by weight, the contents of the remaining tank cannot be considered as destroyed. The observations made during the analysis of the sample do, however, point towards potential means of destruction. The highly viscous mass found in the tank is dissolvable in water, and the chemicals requiring destruction (PCl3 and POCl3) will hydrolyse to harmless, non scheduled chemicals.

9. Owing to the levels of the Category 2 chemicals remaining in the container (approximately 5%), the viscous nature of the remnants, and the limited ability to recover any useable material, the Secretariat is in a position to affirm that the material no longer presents a proliferation threat.

10. The Secretariat has been approached with offers to the trust fund for the decontamination of the decanted tanks and the clean-up of the containers remaining in Ruwagha. The hydrolysis of the contents of the remaining tank is anticipated to be accomplished during the clean-up operations. It is envisaged that small amounts of water can be added to the tank at appropriate intervals until the material reaches a liquid state, followed by the addition of small amounts of sodium hydroxide to neutralise the remaining 5%.

11. As previously reported, samples extracted from one of the tanks removed from Libya indicated the presence of POCl3. Libya is cooperating fully with the Secretariat to clarify this issue. Libya has indicated that all of the chemicals that were present at Ruwagha were the remnants of its previous chemical weapons programme, and had not been analysed. Libya has indicated its intent to declare this additional Category 2 chemical.

Overall costs and status of the trust fund

12. On 1 August 2016, the Secretariat issued a Note calling for voluntary contributions for support to Libya (S/1400/2016, dated 1 August 2016). As at 30 September 2016, the trust fund contained a balance of EUR 979,201, with contributions having been received from Canada, Finland, New Zealand, and the United States of America. To date, over EUR 260,000 has been disbursed for

activities related to the removal operations. It is anticipated that invoices will be received shortly for verification activities that have taken place in Germany. The Secretariat is in the process of preparing a budget for the work related to the clean-up at Ruwagha. The European Union has expressed an interest in contributing to this effort. The Director-General would once again like to express his appreciation to those States Parties that have already made or have committed to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund.